

Message Text

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
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APPROVED BY EUR;SOV;MGARRISON
NEA/EGY - G. R. BEYER
C - JMONTGOMERY
S/S - APSHANKLE

----- 054314

R 090019Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299082

E.O. 11652' GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: LITGAZ ARTICLE ON VARTANOV CASE

REF: A. MOSCOW 18593 NOTAL, B. STATE 288605 NOTAL,
C. MOSCOW 18530

1. DEPARTMENT HAS REVIEWED ENTIRE TEXT OF LITGAZ ARTICLE
AND CONCURS THAT EMBASSY SHOULD PROTEST AFTER GIVING CAIRO
OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT PER PARA 3 BELOW.

2. WE RECOMMEND THAT PROTEST MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS AS
AMENDED FROM REF A:

--LITGAZ OBVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS TO MFA'S NOTE OF NOV 3 AND
WE DISMAYED BY MFA'S APPARENT DECISION TO PUBLICIZE
THE GROSS DISTORTIONS CONTAINED IN MFA'S NOTE AND SPECI-
FICALLY REBUTTED IN EMBASSY'S NOTE OF NOV 9.

--LITGAZ ARTICLE IS UNHELPFUL TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
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AND TO WORKING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND MFA

AND OUR RESPECTIVE DIPLOMATIC POSTS.

--ARTICLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS DISTORTIONS AND FABRICATIONS WHICH USG CONSIDERS UNJUSTIFIED AND UNWARRANTED, CALLING INTO QUESTION THE MOTIVES OF THE AUTHOR AND THOSE WHO PROVIDED HIM WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF SUCH BASELESS CHARGES. THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST USG EMPLOYEES ARE PARTICULARLY UNACCEPTABLE.

--IT IS PARTICULARLY IRONIC THAT LITGAZ'S OUTRAGEOUS DISTORTIONS, WHICH ARE ENTIRELY CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT, ARE CONNECTED BY LITGAZ ITSELF WITH THE FINAL ACT.

--CRUDE SLANDER ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND TOLSTOY FOUNDATION CAN COMPLICATE EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE TO COOPERATE WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN RESOLVING HUMANITARIAN MATTERS INVOLVING SOVIET CITIZENS IN THE US WHO EXPRESS A DESIRE TO RETURN TO THE USSR.

3. FOR CAIRO: IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC POINTS YOU WISH INCLUDED IN EMBASSY MOSCOW'S PROTEST, PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT INFO MOSCOW. ROBINSON

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